"The permanent good---
of the whole people..."

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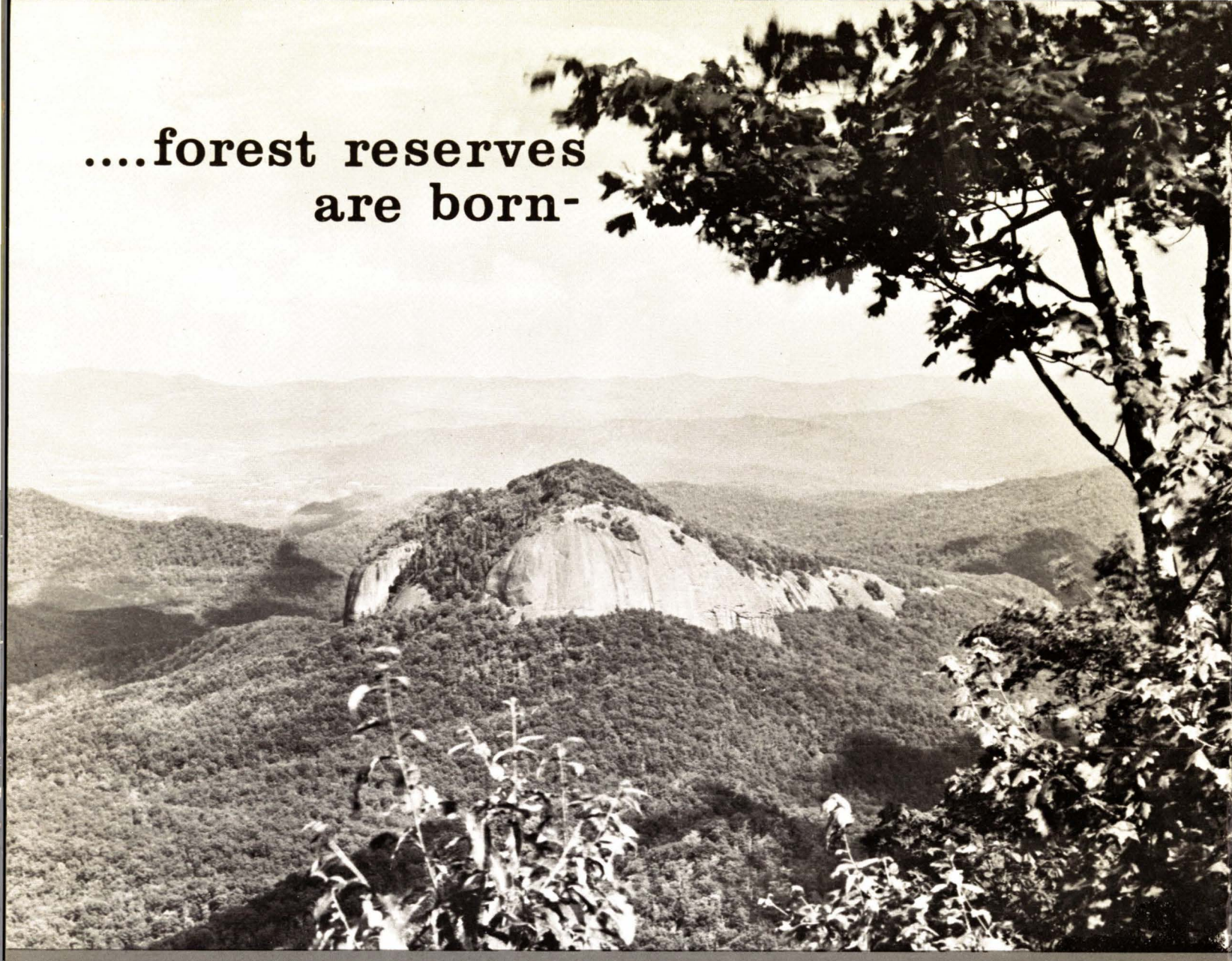
EXPERIMENT STATION

60
1905-1965
FOREST SERVICE YEARS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE—SOUTHERN REGION

....forest reserves are born-



Lookingglass Rock in the Pisgah National Forest--site of the Cradle of Forestry in America

U.S. FOREST SERVICE 1905

Symbol of Service

From a letter to the Chief of the Forest Service from Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson on February 1, 1905

"In the administration of the forest reserves it must be clearly borne in mind that all land is to be devoted to its most productive use for the permanent good of the whole people and not for the temporary benefit of individuals or companies. All the resources of forest reserves are for use, and this use must be brought about in a thoroughly prompt and businesslike manner, under such restrictions only as will insure the permanence of these resources.

"The vital importance of forest reserves to the great industries of the western states will be largely increased in the near future by the continued steady advance in settlement and development. The permanence of the resources of the reserves is therefore indispensable to continued prosperity, and the policy of this Department for their protection and use will invariably be guided by this fact, always bearing in mind that the conservative use of these resources in no way conflicts with their permanent value.

"You will see to it that the water, wood, and forage of the reserves are conserved and wisely used for the benefit of the home-builder first of all; upon whom depends the best permanent use of the lands and resources alike. The continued prosperity of the agricultural, lumbering, mining and live-stock interests is directly dependent upon a permanent and accessible supply of water, wood, and forage, as well as upon the present and future use of these resources under businesslike regulations, enforced with promptness, effectiveness and common sense.

"In the management of each reserve local questions will be decided upon local grounds; the dominant industry will be considered first, but with as little restriction to minor industries as may be possible; sudden changes in industrial conditions will be avoided by gradual adjustment after due notice; and where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question will always be decided from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run."

"... all land is to be devoted to its most productive use ..."

A National Forest can mean many things to many different people

It can mean trees for houses or industry. Or maybe a place to hunt, fish or picnic. Or clear, clean water for a city . . . or an industry. Or food for wildlife and cattle. But . . . no matter how many different meanings a Forest may have for individuals, it also means something that all share. A National Forest means much to the economy of a county, state, region, or the whole Nation. The trees in a Forest put dollars into circulation.

Timber now is about a $3 billion business Nationwide and it's estimated that every dollar's worth of timber cut increases in value 25 times by the time finished products are delivered.

In the South, timber has meant complete new industries such as pulp and paper industries and, more recently, the use of southern pine for plywood. There are more than 80 pulp and paper mills in the South alone and their purchases of pulpwood amounted to more than $576,006,000 in 1965. By the time payrolls and other items are added, the total economic benefit to the region came to more than $1 billion in 1965.

Yes, wood using industries have meant much to the South and National Forests have played a part in the growth of this industry.

The U.S. Forest Service came into being in February of 1905 and under its management the National Forests have served the Nation well, in times of national emergency as well as in day by day operations.

This is a description of the part played by National Forests in the South in helping the economy of the area.

Trees for houses

A place to hunt

A place to fish

A place to picnic

Food for wildlife

Forage for cattle

"... for the permanent good of the whole people ..."

Gifford Pinchot—First Chief of the U.S. Forest Service

It was 60 years ago that Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson told Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot that in the administration of the National Forests "it must be clearly borne in mind that all land is to be devoted to its most productive use for the permanent good of the whole people and not for the temporary benefit of individuals or companies."

These instructions were in a letter Wilson sent Pinchot when the forest reserves (National Forests) were transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture.

The U.S. Forest Service was established in February 1905, the same month as the transfer. Its policy ever since has been to carry out the Secretary's instructions. The United States was growing fast when the Forest Service was established and the demand was for lumber and more lumber for home building. Secretary Wilson referred to the homeowner as the person "upon whom depends the best permanent use of the lands and resources alike."

Since those words were written in 1905, the timber harvest on all National Forests has amounted to 162 billion board feet . . . enough to build more than 16 million homes. And a continuous supply of timber remains for the future.

The first National Forest in the South was established in Arkansas in 1907 and now there are 33 Forests in the 13-state Southern Region.

The Regional Office of the Forest Service was set up in Atlanta in 1934 and in that year the timber harvest from Southern Forests was 43,595,000 board feet. By 1965 that figure had grown to 844,815,000 board feet, almost 20 times the first year's yield.

Timber harvested from National Forests in the South in 1965 would make up a freight train of more than 33,000 box cars. And that's the timber cut for just one year from Southern National Forests.

But there's a better way to measure the effect of National Forests on the economy than just citing the number of board feet of timber harvested. The timber cut on National Forests in the South since 1934 had a value of more than $237 million.

That means, with the $25 increase in value for each $1 cut, that the economy of the South has received a $6 billion boost because of the National Forests.

But cutting trees isn't all there is to it . . . there must be a continuing supply of new trees to replace those cut and sold and those that die. The Forest Service has reforested 707,000 acres of land in the South to keep providing "for the permanent good of the whole people."

"... all the resources of forest reserves are for use ..."

When Secretary Wilson sent his directive to Gifford Pinchot chances are he was thinking of such resources of the forest as wood, water, forage, and wildlife. He probably never dreamed that another resource would have a tremendous effect on management of the National Forests.

That resource is recreation. It brings into the National Forests in a single year's time more persons than even lived in the Nation when Wilson wrote his letter. There were more than 133 million visits to all National Forests during the 1964 calendar year . . . and the number of visits increases about 12 percent a year.

As the population of the country has grown, so has the desire to get away from the rush of the city. A forest setting makes a fine spot for recreation and relaxation.

The Southern Region had only 100 family units for camping and picnicking in 1934 and the total number of recreation visits to Forests in the South that year was 500,000. By 1965 that visitation total reached about 26 million. There are now 6200 family units on Southern Forests and they have a capacity of 31,000 persons. That's a far cry from the 500 capacity in 1934.

The increasing recreation demand means a lot to the economy of an area. Hunters and fishermen buy equipment, campers and picnickers buy food and other supplies, and even those who just drive through a forest to sightsee buy food, lodging, gas and oil at the nearby communities.

All the resources of the Forests are used and all help the local economy.

Relaxing at a National Forest campsite.

Hiker pauses beside rushing mountain stream.

This painting by U.S. Forest Service artist Harry Rossoll portrays the spirit of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the thirties.

". . . the greatest good of the greatest number . . ."

Fire crew from CCC camp battles forest fire.

Picnic tables being built by enrollees.

Conservation work by the CCC—planting white pine.

CCC enrollees assist game warden in fish planting.

Secretary Wilson knew that conflicting interests might arise in management of the National Forest so he instructed Pinchot to base decisions on the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run.

Through the years the "greatest good" has come to mean much more than just deciding between conflicting interests in the management of the Forests. It has come to mean taking part in the emergency programs or special projects that benefit the Nation or a particular section of the economy. Take the Civilian Conservation Corps for example.

The CCC was an emergency program to put men to work during the depression years of the 30's. Millions of men were jobless, not because they did not want to work but simply because no jobs were available.

There was much conservation work that needed to be done so the Forest Service pitched in to put CCC enrollees to work.

In the South, men of the Civilian Conservation Corps planted trees . . . fought forest fires . . . worked to control erosion and floods . . . built bridges and buildings . . . constructed recreation areas and did wildlife work on National Forest lands.

Many of the buildings and other projects of the CCC still stand. Some still are in use today, a reminder of the Forest Service's part in a Nationwide emergency program.

The CCC program ended in 1942 but many of the forests which cover the South today are a testimonial to this emergency program.

HARRY
BOSSOLL

World War II brought increased demands for lumber for the war effort. Again, the Forest Service and the National Forests pitched in. Between 1942 and the end of the war in 1945, the timber cut from National Forests in the South was doubled to meet the cry for wood for the war. The 1945 cut of 393 million board feet was almost 10 times the cut in 1934 when the Southern Region was established.

Although the United States is a rich and powerful Nation, there are areas where an economic shot in the arm is needed . . . counties where the government can help with needed projects and help put men to work.

It was such a need that brought on the Accelerated Public Works program which got underway in 1962 and saw the last projects completed in 1965.

On National Forests in the South, APW was another case of the Forest Service taking part in an emergency program, a program which could benefit both the Forest Service and the local economy.

By the time the last APW project (Brasstown Bald) was completed in 1965, the Southern Region had used $10,400,000 of the emergency funds. These funds helped build needed Forest Service roads, recreation areas, administrative buildings and did many other things which might have been delayed without special money.

The money and jobs from APW work on National Forests helped many areas where the economy had slipped backwards. The Accelerated Public Works program was a big help to these areas . . . and to the National Forests.

Conservation of natural resources always has been a part of the Forest Service program. Special programs have added another type of conservation . . . conservation of human resources.

In the depression, the CCC program put to work men who wanted to work . . . but for whom there were no jobs.

The APW program helped bring improvements on National Forests.

An APW work crew building picnic table in National Forest recreation area.

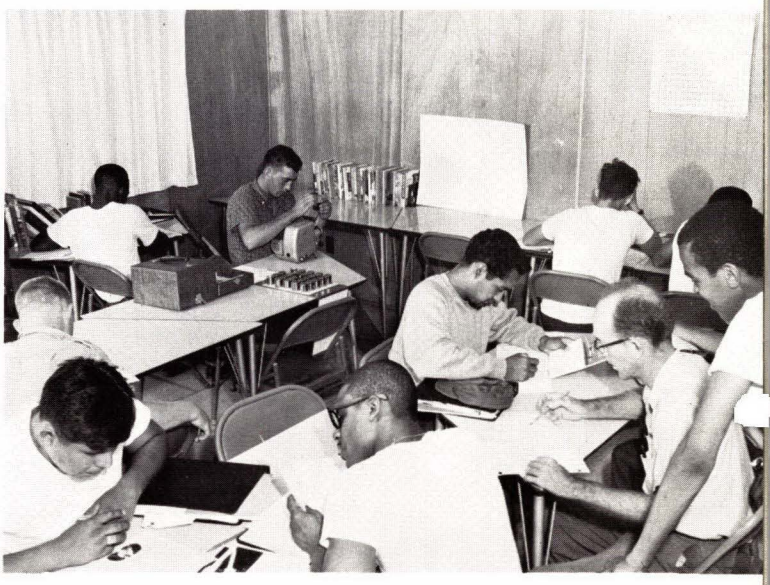
Road improvement under the APW program.

Job Corps
FOREST SERVICE
US

In 1965, the war on poverty brought another program for a particular group of young Americans. This is the Job Corps and the Forest Service is administering Conservation Centers under this program. These Centers are located on National Forests and, like the CCC enrollees, the Corpsmen do conservation work.

The Job Corps is just one part of the vast "war on poverty" which is administered by the Office of Economic Opportunity. The Forest Service and the OEO cooperate in establishment and operation of Job Corps Conservation Centers. The OEO and the Forest Service work together to help young men train themselves to become better citizens.

But the Job Corps is different from the CCC of bygone days. Young people coming into the Job Corps are out of work and out of school. Some are out of work and out of school of their own accord . . . others due to circumstances beyond their control. But whatever the reason, they have one thing in common. They are volunteers and the Job Corps offers them a chance to learn to live, improve their education and work, all with others just like themselves.



Education is a big part of the Job Corps program.

Job Corpsmen get valuable work experience.

The Job Corps can help them to develop a feeling of social responsibility and the right attitude to make their own way.

The Corpsmen in Conservation Centers on National Forests in the South are there because they want to better themselves. They are getting a chance to raise their educational level and develop work skills.

The Corpsmen are in the 16-21 age group and they are doing conservation work on National Forests, work which is needed but could not be scheduled right away with regular funds. The Centers help the local economy by employing local people, buying supplies and other things in nearby communities.

Job Corps expenditures by the Forest Service in the South amounted to $10 million during 1965.

Ouachita Job Corps Conservation Center near Hot Springs, Arkansas was the first in the South . . . and the first Department of Agriculture Center to begin operations. Since then there have been others . . . Schenck and Arrowood in North Carolina . . . Jacobs Creek in Tennessee . . . Cass in Arkansas . . . Hodgens in Oklahoma and New Waverly in Texas. The addition of three new Forests to the Region in 1965 brought in Frenchburg and Pine Knot Centers in Kentucky, and Flatwoods in Virginia.

Already, graduates from Conservation Centers in the South have gone on to better things. Some have found jobs, others have joined one of the services and still others have moved on to Urban Centers for more specialized training. At least one has made the switch from Corpsman to Resident Worker and now works full time to help others who are traveling the same road he did. College was the next step up the ladder for some.

Whether it be a job, more schooling or possibly a longer stay in a Center, the Job Corps is another instance of the Forest Service doing its part in a special program.

It is helping conserve one of our greatest resources . . . the youth of the United States.

An act of June 4, 1897 set forth the purpose of the National Forests and one of the major purposes was to improve and protect the forest. This the Forest Service has done down through the years, and in so doing has contributed to the economic well being of the South and the Nation.

The economy of the South has benefited from the expanding horizons of National Forest operations through the years.

In 1934, the fiscal obligations for the new Southern Region amounted to slightly more than $5 million. By 1965 the yearly budget for protecting and improving the Forests had risen to more than $44 million for National Forest Administration. Another $5,776,000 went for cooperative arrangements with states, counties, and other non-government subdivisions.

Since 1934, total Forest Service expenditures in the South have passed the $528 million mark with another $89 million going for cooperative programs.

But there also have been direct cash benefits to counties with National Forest land. By law 25 percent of National Forest Receipts go back to counties where National Forest land is located. The money must be used for the county's schools and roads.

Good food for hungry young men.

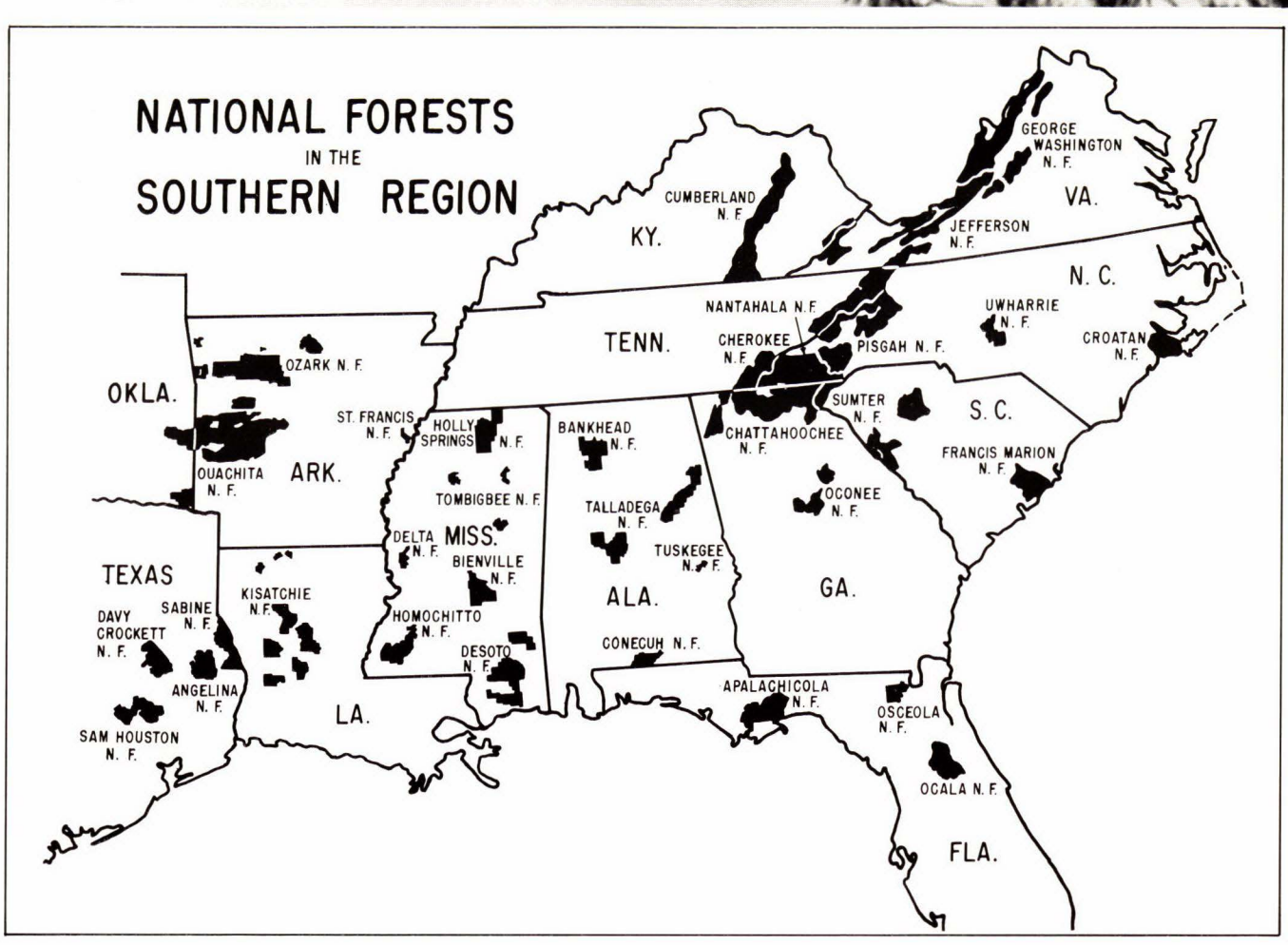
Members of the Job Corps learn by doing.

Corpsmen clearing underbrush along roadside.

Since 1934, this has meant more than $59 million for roads and schools in the South . . . money which would have had to come from somewhere else were it not for the National Forests.

The South has moved from an economically depressed area in the 30's to an area with a booming economy and a bright future . . . and National Forests have helped the South make that move.

Job Corps



"... to improve and protect the forest within the reservation ..."

More than 100 years ago Congress established the Department of Agriculture and President Abraham Lincoln called it the "people's department." For 60 years, the Forest Service has been a part of the Department, serving the people through the administration of the National Forests, Forest Research, and State and Private Forestry activities.

The aim of the Forest Service since 1905 has been to follow Secretary Wilson's instructions to see that forest land is devoted to its most productive use for "the permanent good of the whole people."

This means more than just growing and harvesting trees. It means protecting watersheds so there'll be pure water . . . it means seeing that fish and wildlife have food and a home . . . it means providing forage for livestock . . . and it means furnishing recreation facilities for millions of persons.

The economic history of the past 60 years proves how right Secretary Wilson was when he called the forest resources indispensable to continued prosperity. Timber and other forest resources have played a vital part in the economic development of the South and the Nation.

The Job Corps program is another example of what the National Forests can mean to people . . . and how they can serve the people. This program, administered in cooperation with the Office of Economic Opportunity, has as its goal making useful citizens out of young men who thought there was no way to go forward.

As we said in the beginning, a National Forest can mean many things to many different people. To us in the Forest Service, the important thing is that National Forests do mean many things to many people. Good things that served the Nation sixty years ago and are still serving the people today.

J. K. VESSEY
Regional Forester

R19-R8-1966

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE—SOUTHERN REGION